Feb 1976

# The MESSENGER

## THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

## ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

**February**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sun. | 1st | 11.00am | Rev. A. Nash |
| | | 6.00pm | Service of Word & Sacrament |
| Mon. | 2nd | 6.30pm | Pilots (& each Monday) |
| Tue. | 3rd | 7.30pm | Ladies Guild - An evening with our Minister |
| Wed. | 4th | 2.00pm | Young Mums (& each Wednesday) |
| | | 7.30pm | Whist Drive (& each Wednesday) |
| | | 7.15pm | A.G.M. of N.E.District Women's Committee at Trinity, Rochdale |
| Thu. | 5th | 7,30pm | A get-together of the churches in Milnrow and Newhey for prayer; in the Pennine Room |
| Sun. | 8th | 11.00am | Mrs M. Nash |
| | | 6.00pm | Songs of Praise Service |
| Tue. | 10th | 7.30pm | Coffee - Bring and Buy - Slides. |
| Sun. | 15th | 11.00am | Rev. A. Nash |
| | | 6.00pm | " " " |
| Tue. | 17th | 7.30pm | Care Committee in Pennine Room |
| Sat. | 21st | 7.30pm | to 9.30pm "Family Frolics" Potato Pie Supper |
| Sun. | 22nd | 11.00am | & 6.00pm conducted by our Ladies. |
| Fri. | 27th | 7.30pm | United Rehearsal at St. Stephens in connection with Women's World Day of Prayer. |
| Sun. | 29th | 1100am | & 6.00pm PULPIT EXCHANGE SUNDAY. |

LADIES WEEK END

**March**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tues. | 2nd | 7.30pm | Ladies Guild - NORWEB demo. |
| Sun. | 7th | 11.00 | Rev. A. Nash |
| | | 6.00pm | Service of Word & Sacrament |

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## FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1st | Mrs F. Holland | Mrs E. Prince |
| | 8th | Mrs F. Cooper | |
| | 15th | Mrs F. Butterworth | Mrs R. Rothwell |
| | 22nd | Mrs Kenyon | |
| | 29th | Mrs H. Buckley | Mrs E. Smith |

## LTTTLEBOROUGH DIARY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **February** | | |
| Sun. 1st | 10.30am | Mr J. Lord |
| Wed. 4th | 6.45pm | Pilots |
| Sun. 8th | 10.30am | Rev. A. Nash |
| | 6.00pm | Rev. A. Nash - Communion |
| Tue. 10th | | Junior Church A.G.M. |
| Wed. 11th | 6.45pm | Pilots |
| Sun. 15th | 10.30am | Mrs Nash |
| Tue. 17th | 7.30pm | Women's Guild |
| Wed. 18th | 6.45pm | Pilots |
| Sun. 22nd | 10.30am | Rev. A. Nash - Communion |
| Wed. 25th | 6.45pm | Pilots |
| Thu. 26th | 7.30pm | Men's Fellowship |
| | | Mr W. Barratt |
| Sun. 29th | 10.30am | District Exchange |
| **March** | | |
| Sun. 7th | 10.30am | Mr J. Lord |

### COLLECTIONS

| | | cash | envelopes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. 7th | | 5.90½ | 15.67½ |
| 14th | | 7.42½ | 11.97½ |
| 21st | | 15.94½ | 13.07½ |
| 25th | a.m. | 5.29 | (Christian Aid) |
| 28th | | 4.36½ | 14.79½ |

### Organist/Pianist

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 1st | a.m. | Mrs. M. Hill |
| 8th | a.m. | Miss L. Merrick |
| | p.m. | Mrs. M. Hill |
| 15th | a.m. | Mrs E. Cockroft |
| 22nd | a.m. | Miss L. Merrick |
| 29th | a.m. | Mrs. E. Cockroft |

From the Manse
February, 1976

My Dear Friends,

One night an aircraft, on a flight from Hawaii to America, crashed in the Pacific. For days and nights passengers were tossed about on three tiny rafts linked together with rope. They had little food and even less water, but one man had in his pocket a tiny New Testament. Twice a day, morning and evening, eight men pulled their rafts together and the New Testament was read aloud. They said afterwards that there, on the waste of ocean, its words seemed suddenly to come alive. Against that immense background of sea and sky it spoke to them as it had never done before.

There is, I suppose, a sense in which none of us ever really discovers the Bible until we come to it in something of the manner of shipwrecked men. One of the writers of the Psalms speaks of it as being a great treasure which he rejoices to find. I wonder if we ourselves have in our homes such a great treasure the worth of which has not yet been fully discovered?

The supreme question for man is his relationship to God. The Bible has this as its main theme. It contains the story of the reaching out of the soul of man in its search for God. It also unfolds the story of God's search for man through Jesus Christ. If anyone desires to know his own heart in all its possibilities of glory and shame; if he desires to know God in all the grandeur of His nature, it is all there. The Bible seeks and finds the heart of man, talks to the spirit of man and brings man near to God. We have indeed inherited a great inheritance in the Scriptures.

May God Bless you and yours,

Sincerely your friend
ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month....

"I rejoice in Your Word, as one who finds a great treasure". Psalm 119, verse 162.

HOLY BAPTISM.

On Sunday, Dec. 28th, at Littleborough,

STUART ALAN BOYCE

son of Gerald and Sheila Boyce, 11 Brown Bank Road, Smithybridge.

.....May God richly bless this little one.....

OBITUARY

The funeral of Mrs JESSIE CURRIE PHILLIPS, aged 68 years, of Moorside, Oldham, took place on January 6th at Rochdale crematorium.

The funeral of Miss EDITH ANNIE CLEGG, aged 68 years, of 162 Newhey Road, Milnrow, took place on January 6th. The Service was at St. Stephen's and later at Rochdale Crematorium.

The funeral of Mr. ERIC CROSSLEY, aged 58 years, of 30 Stopford Avenue, Littleborough took place on January 7th at Littleborough. Interment was at St. Barnabas Church cemetery Shore.

All these services were conducted by Rev. A. Nash.

May we express our deepest sympathy to all families and friends.

Jesus said....

"Let not your heart be troubled - neither let it be afraid. In my Father's house there are many rooms".

John 14.

MISS ANNIE CLEGG — An Appreciation

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of Thy Lord". These words as you may remember, were the focus of our thoughts at Annie's funeral service. All her life had its roots in St. Stephen's. It was there she learned to love Christ and it was there for more than 50 years that she served Him.

Her faith in Christ was the strength of her life and all who knew her are aware of her tremendous courage during her illness.

We give thanks for Annie Clegg. It is indeed good to have shared life with her.

## SEVENTY-SIX POUND NOTES IN A BIG PARADE!

The latest "Penny-a-day" effort brought in £76. Put another way this is equivalent to 7,600 days or nearly 21 years of penny-a-day saving. Our thanks go to all who gave so generously to this Heating Fund effort. The sum raised altogether now stands at £382 but not for long, we hope, seeing as how our target is £500. Still, with only £118 to go we should be able to clear it at a-penny-a-day in, lets see now... Ah, well it looks as if we shall have to work faster than Marjorie Daw+s Johnny.

Sorry to upset your calculations, Mr Ed. but since all the above 'brain fag', we have received a further £3'.

## OF CUTS

The combined talents of the Baines and Royle Families were stretched to the limit in an evening of "Canal Caboodles" the other Friday. With the air of Amazon explorers they gave an account of how they took a barge all the way from - wait for it - Runcorn to Chester and back again, without being eaten by crocodiles or contracting beriberi. It was indeed a milestone in the annals of exploration, brought to life before our very eyes with the aid of pictures, diagrams, charades and cinematograph. A large audience enjoyed the tea and toast and and helped to raise £12 for Guild funds. Our thanks to Miss Tither for raffle prize.

## LADIES TAKE STOCK

Tuesday Jan.6th was the A.G.M. of the Ladies Guild when the following officials were re-elected:- President: Mrs M.Nash, Vice President: Mrs M.Howarth, Secretary: Mrs J.Kay, Treasurer: Mrs P.Royle, Committee Members: Mrs C.Clough, Mrs M.Holden and Mrs M.Mellor.

In reviewing the year 1975 our President spoke of the enjoyable meetings we had shared and that success depends on each individual pulling her weight. Thanks were extended to all who had helped in any way during the year. Mention was also made of the many ladies who perform the variety of jobs 'behind the scenes' - tea making and washing up; cleaning the church; supervising at coffee time on Sunday mornings; taking home the dirty linen and performing miracles on same, distributing flowers etc.

Tribute was paid to Miss Annie Clegg - a brave Christian lady who would be sadly missed by all.

A warm welcome awaits all ladies on the first Tuesday of each month. Why not come along and join us. The next meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 3rd when our Minister will spend the evening with us and in all probability share with us some of his experiences as a Minister.

J. Kay

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## T.V. INSTALLED IN PENNINE ROOM.....

Has our church now got its own T.V. Lounge? Not quite - this was just a 'one-night' (sorry one-morning) stand' on Sunday 18th January. The Primary theme for that day was "Father helps us to learn", so Hazel Ogden brought along her Dad, complete with overall, portable telly and some sophisticated electrical equipment to frighten or should we say 'shock' us all. We thought Hughie Green had lent him his "clapometer" until we found out it was an avometer, so we had a test to see who registered the highest current and Graham Calow came out tops.

## NOT WITHOUT

Young Mums started back in full swing this year with a number of new members - confirming the need for such a gathering in our local community.

The New Year has brought with it some interesting ideas for Young Mums - As numbers are swelling it may be possible to elect members for a committee so that it becomes more of a "self help" group with plenty of varied ideas incorporated into each weekly meeting.

We began our first Wednesday in the new session with a discussion on five questions - one of them being: "What motto should Young Mums adopt this year?" The final brilliant idea came from Jenny (one of our members) -- "Have a break - have a chit-chat".

Another of the questions really needs further discussion - "Is it necessary to be 'with it'. What does it mean to be 'with it' anyway?" A topic with applications to fashions, and more importantly, to attitudes of mind.

Any one who is bored or lonely, seeking an afternoon of lively or restful activity away from their toddlers (grandmas are provided) is warmly invited to join us on Wednesdays at 14.00 hours (2 p.m.)

Angela Turner

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## A FLOWERY MESSAGE

It is well over a year now since the flower boxes were first installed in St. Stephen's. During that time many have brought in plants in large variety to beautify our Church. As Spring approaches may we ask that once again you remember the flower boxes and bring along any plants - especially those which will flower in the near future

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## WELCOME!!

We were delighted to see Mrs Doris Bruckshaw worshipping with us again, at the morning service on January, 18th. Carry on the good work, Doris.

"F A M I L Y

F R O L I C S "

(A Ladies Guild Entertainment)

not to be missed on

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

7.30 - 9.00

All ages will be entertained, whether they like it or not!

Supper will consist of Pie made with

POTATOES - POTATOES - POTATOES

All for the ridiculously low price of --

25p for Adults 20p for Children

Admission by ticket if you want to eat.

LADIES WEEKEND The above is part of Ladies Weekend and on Sunday 22nd Feb. the Ladies will organise and conduct both services. Please give your support.

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Rev. T, Vause

David Shepherd, the Secretary of the U.R.C. Church at Norden writes to our Minister thus:

"I am pleased to be able to send you the news that Rev. T.Vause, in his retirement from full-time ministry at Bamford, is to give us some of his time in Ministerial Oversight and Pastoral Care....

We are planning to hold a Recognition Service for Mr Vause on Wednesday evening, 4th February at 7.30pm which Rev. J.K.Ramage has kindly agreed to conduct. We should be delighted to see you and any friends who would like to join us in celebrating this occasion."

We rejoice with our friends at Norden and look forward to sharing fellowship with them on the 4th.February.

One man's thoughts on the death sentence...

Terrorism, spread around the world by television, seems to be increasing by the week. We are forced, by our consciences, to reconsider the death sentence for murder or acts of terrorism.

An animal, if attacked, will fight if it can win, or run away if it thinks it cannot. If the animal is in a large enough group it knows it can win and its instincts will therefore encourage it to fight. If the group of animals is human society and the attack comes from a terrorist it would not therefore be surprising if the society want to 'fight' the terrorist. Society would call out for revenge - a little girl has been killed; a mother is dead; a politician has been shot - someone must pay.

If the terrorist is caught he must face death, as his victim did. Some would say the noose is not good enough for him - too quick. Even the Bible agrees - "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth".

As Christians we must ask ourselves what Jesus' point of view on this question is. Does Jesus want to see the terrorist dead - is He in favour of hanging him? Jesus taught a new covenant, a new promise, a new order of things. Surely did he reject the "eye for an eye" teaching - instead He says "Love your enemies". He did not tell us to hang them. There is no evidence that He agreed to killing or injurious actions. He healed the ear of the High Priest's servant at the time of His arrest. In spite of possessing absolute power He did not offer physical resistance.

Taking the life of another is against our religious and judicial law. If these laws are good and just, and most agree that they are, it is difficult to understand the judicial taking of life (kill on the order of a court), and even more difficult to morally justify "What is good for the goose is good for the gander". It cannot be wrong for a terrorist to kill but right for society to kill him. A. Turner

Readers comments or contraversial issues are always welcomed - Ed.

## THE HANDS OF CHRIST

His baby hands they beat the air,
And Mary she smiled down,
While Angels watched with tender care
God's child of great renown.

His craftsman's hands were rarely still,
In many shapes they spoke,
And how He loved to use their skill
To make an easy yoke.

His teacher's hands they sped His word
With gestures on its way,
So people saw as well as heard
The things He had to say.

His healer's hands they meant so much
To those who suffered pain,
His power flowed through them at their touch
And made them well again.

His hands outstretched upon the Cross
In challenge and appeal,
What dreadful pain, what bitter loss,
Borne for the common weal.

O Lord, take these poor hands of mine,
Unworthy though they be,
Make them a little more like thine,
Set them to work for Thee.

Wilfred Blackburn.

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## TIME

Time is something that cannot come back if you lose it. God needed time to make the earth and look how beautiful He made it. The spring flowers and blossom need time to bloom. We need time to play and say what we want to say. Babies of every kind need time to grow up, and we will have to teach them not to waste time.

(These words of wisdom come from a nine-year-old, living in Slough, Buckinghamshire).

## A SINCERE THANK YOU

Mr & Mrs E.Tattersall would like to say thank you for the gift parcel and flowers which they have received over the last year. They would like to thank Rev. A.Nash, as well, for his prayers and comfort.

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It is very nice of Mr & Mrs Tattersall to write in this way and we certainly pray that they find a better time ahead. This might be a good opportunity to say a general thank you to those who provide the church flowers and to those who distribute them. We are sure that there are a great many people who receive flowers and are comforted to know that not very far away there is a Christian Church that Cares.

## JUMBLE SALE ,,,,,,

..... not yet, however. Junior Church and CWM intend to hold a Jumble Sale on 26th March, so this is just an advance notice to give you all an excuse to dash off to the sales (if there's anything left) knowing full well that you can then throw out your old clobber and be confident that it has gone to a good cause. If you cannot afford the sales, you can still stay at home and sort your cupboards out.

## BEFORE WE FORGET

This astonishing magazine, "The Messenger", only costs 4p. (We thought we would remind you of its name because folk still persist in calling it The News-sheet") We also thought we would remind you of its price so you can rush along to Mrs D, LEACH, your distributer, and pay her 44p for a full year's supply.

We don't like talking about money, of course, but we dont turn our nose up at it. Besides it is better to have an income than to be taken over by some big newspaper like the "R..... O....." or even R.A.P.

A PARTY FOR LITTLE ONES.....

26 children came to the Creche and Primary Department Party on 3rd January, and as expected ate with great gusto.

Hilary, ably assisted by the mums, kept the children entertained from 2.30 till 4.30 with the assistance of our Minister who contributed to the games while Hilary got her breath back. We were sorry Mr Nash couldn't stay to tea but we were pleased to see him and hope that he enjoyed himself even though it was a bit hectic. Eventually we did get round to some relatively quiet games such as "Pass the Parcel" and then we sang some Christmas songs and carols. They all received some sweets to take home and looked very happy as their parents collected them at five o'clock - happy, that is, with joyous exhaustion; not happy to be going. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

.....A PARTY FOR MEDIUM SIZE ONES....

Organising a party for 7 to 15 year olds is no joke, but that is what we did for the Junior Church Party. Still, who needs professional entertainers? We got by and time seemed to pass very quickly as we whipped through games, dances and supper with a relish. We are indebted to those who helped in various courageous ways, especially for the loan of the record player.

.....AND A PARTY FOR THE GREAT BIG ONES..

The Mens Fellowship Party was notable for its air of confident informality and hearty eating. There might not have been any paper hats but with Archie's capacity for making paper hats (or were they boats?) who cares. Maybe there were no ladies to dance with, but, as Mr Beattie brilliantly demonstrated, it doesn't even take two to tango. All in all, it was a jolly night and we must express our gratitude to our wives for keeping out-a't road for once.

## CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

### DOOR STEWARDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1st | Mr J. Nairn | Mrs Crossley |
| | 8th | Mr R. Mullen | Mr. H.N. Hill a.m. |
| | | Mr E. Holt | Mr. F. Beattie p.m. |
| | 15th | Mrs Stott | Mr J. Lord |
| | 22nd | Mr J. Holt | Mr J. Hill |
| | 29th | Mrs Crossley | Mr F. Beattie |
| Mar. | 7th | Mr E. Holt | Mr R. Mullen |

### ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 8th | Mr F. Simpson | Mr F. Beattie |
| | 29th | Mr J. Lord | Mr F. Simpson a.m. |

### COFFEE ROTA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1st | W. Spinks | J. Hobbs |
| | 8th | L. Butterworth | S. Moss |
| | 15th | B. Holt | P. Mullen |
| | 22nd | J. Allison | B. Allison |
| | 29th | A. Merrick | B. Merrick |
| Mar. | 7th | K. Hill | S. Butterworth |

### FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1st | M. Grindrod |
| | 8th | Mr G. Hill |
| | 15th | P. Lightfoot |
| | 22nd | K. Hill |
| | 29th | M. Law |
| Mar. | 7th | R. Mullen |

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Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

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### FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1st | Mrs White |
| | 8th | Mrs Mills |
| | 15th | Mrs Greenwood |
| | 22nd | Mrs Walls |
| | 29th | Mrs Jackson |
| Mar. | 7th | Mrs Walker |

## CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

### FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 1st | Mr J. Harrison | Mr I. Royle |
| 8th | Mr J. Collins | Stephen Collins |
| 15th | Mrs F. Butterworth | Mr H. Mellor |
| 22nd | LADIES SERVICES | |
| 29th | Mr A. Rae | Mr G. Buckley |
| Mar. 7th | Mrs J. Duffy | Mrs A. Baines |

### ELDERS ROTA

| | EVENING DOOR STEWARDS | DUTY ELDER | ORGANIST/PIANIS EVENING WORSHIP |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | | | |
| 1st | Mr D. Munday | Mr A. Sharples | Mr D. Logan |
| 8th | Mr A. Busill | Mr H. Whitehead | Mrs C. Hey |
| 15th | Mr H. Whitehead | Mrs M. Howarth | |
| 22nd | LADIES SERVICES | | Mrs C. Bradbury |
| 29th | Mr J. Wild | Mr B. Clough | |
| Mar. 7 | Mrs M. Howarth | Mr D. Munday | Mr D. Logan |

### COMMUNION ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 1st | Mrs M. Howarth | Mr A. Busill |
| Mar. 7th | Mr J. Wild | Mr H. Whitehead |

### FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 1st | Mrs J. Duffy | Mrs F. Butterworth |
| 8th | Mrs J. Cudworth | Mrs N. Settle |
| 15th | Mrs C. Hey | Mrs M. Mellor |
| 22nd | Mrs A. Wood | Mrs E. Garside |
| 29th | Mrs J. Munday | Mrs M. Ogden |
| Mar. 7th | Mrs E. Smith | Mrs H. Buckley |

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

### COLLECTIONS

| | am | cash | pm | Envelopes | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. 7th | 11.74 | | 1.61 | 19.75 | 33.10 |
| 14th | 6.31 | | 1.10 | 11.79 | 19.20 |
| 21st | 13.51 | | 4.21 | 15.05 | 32.77 |
| 24th | | | 5.52 | | 5.52 |
| 28th | 6.77 | | 1.77 | 13.52 | 22.06 |
| 25th | 4.28 | | | | 4.28 |
| | £42.61 | | £14.21 | £60.11 | £116.93 |